

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/539,447	JHOTI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Irakli Kiknadze	2882	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to _____.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 6/20/05
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-12 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a method for identifying a ligand of a target macromolecule comprising: soaking one or more crystals of the target macromolecule in a solution containing a collection of compounds generated in situ or separate from the crystal, where the solution has been prepared without the purification of the synthesized collection of compounds; and obtaining and using an X-ray crystal diffraction pattern to identify any compound bound to the macromolecule crystal, the compound being a ligand of the target macromolecule as claimed including all of the limitations of the claim 1. Claims 6-12 are allowable by virtue of their dependence.

Claim 2 is allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a method for identifying a ligand of a target macromolecule comprising: synthesizing a collection of compounds, which are suitable for screening against a target macromolecule, in a solution containing one or more crystals of the target macromolecule and obtaining and using an X-ray crystal diffraction pattern to identify any compound bound to the macromolecule crystal, the compound being a ligand of the target macromolecule as claimed including all of the limitations of the claim 2.

Claim 3 is allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a method for identifying a ligand of a target macromolecule comprising: synthesizing a collection of unpurified compounds, which are suitable for screening against a target macromolecule; and obtaining and using an X-ray crystal diffraction pattern to identify any compound bound to the macromolecule crystal, the compound being a ligand of the target macromolecule as claimed including all of the limitations of the claim 3. Claims 4 and 5 are allowable by virtue of their dependence.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Olson (US Patent Application Publication 2002/0054663 A1), Stewart (US Patent Application Publication 2002/0197628 A1), Stewart (US Patent 6,950,757 B2), Blomsma et al. (US Patent 7,079,621 B2) teach the x-ray crystallography methods and apparatus for identifying ligand.

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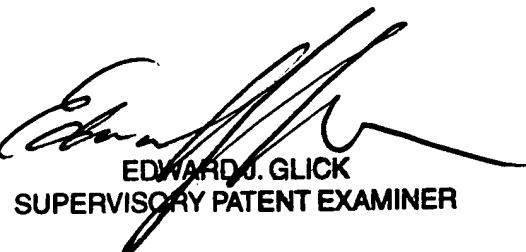
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Irakli Kiknadze whose telephone number is 571-272-2493. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on 571-272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Irakli Kiknadze
August 8, 2006

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EDWARD J. GLICK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER